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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 3941
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 0577
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 4234
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 4747
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 3956
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 2248
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 4706
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1576
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2022
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 8565
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 6051
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0955
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY 5075
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 7029
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 9865
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001207

STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
NSC FOR NEA STAFF

SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
HQ USAF FOR XOX
DA WASHDC FOR SASA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR PAO/POLAD
COMSIXTHFLT FOR 019

JERUSALEM ALSO ICD
LONDON ALSO FOR HKANONA AND POL
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC KMDR IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

Please note: No Israel Media Reaction on Monday, May 9, 2008,
Israeli holiday of Shavuot.

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

11. Iran

12. U.S.-Israel Relations

Key stories in the media:

Both Yediot and Maariv led with statements by senior current and

past Israeli defense sources that Israel will have to attack Iran. In an interview with Yediot, Transportation Minister (and former chief of staff and defense minister) Shaul Mofaz urges Israel to act with American assistance. Ha'aretz quoted Olmert aides as saying that progress was made in forging a common U.S.-Israeli position on Iran's nuclear program. Ha'aretz quoted a senior source in Olmert's entourage as saying yesterday that Olmert told the U.S. administration that Iran had still not reached the point of no return expertise. The source quoted Olmert as saying that it is therefore paramount that sanctions be stepped up. Makor Rishon-Hatzofe reported that Olmert asked Bush to close Iranian banks. Media quoted sources in Washington as saying that there also had been progress in Israel's attempt to purchase advanced fighter aircraft, and the inclusion of the IAF in the USAF global early warning system against incoming ballistic missiles. The Jerusalem Post reported that House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman, whose panel has hitherto prevented the sale to Israel of the F-22 stealth fighter jet, told the newspaper yesterday that he was open to removing the sales restriction to boost Israeli deterrence.

Ha'aretz reported that PM Ehud Olmert told President Bush and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas this week that he believes he can overcome his legal and political difficulties and stay in office. Similar to other media, Makor Rishon-Hatzofe reported on a rift in the government coalition: The Labor ministers have decided to support the dissolution of the Knesset, which led to Olmert stating that, should they do so, he would fire them. Ha'aretz found that without Labor there is not yet enough support in the Knesset to pass a dissolution measure. Ha'aretz reported that the Arab parties and Meretz would not support such a move since elections would most likely return Likud to power.

Leading media reported that yesterday Olmert told